

1811 S.

Anderson
Jaundice

Sketches of Jaundice

Sketches of Jaundice
J. Bates Anderson

by

Thomas Bates Anderson
of Maryland.

Printed by J. B. [illegible]

Received of Mr. J. Smith

the sum of £100

for the purchase of the

land of the late Mr. J. Smith

the said land being situated

in the parish of St. Mary

in the County of Middlesex

and the said land being

the same as is described

in the will of the late Mr. J. Smith

An Essay
ON
Icterus or Jaundice

by

Thomas Bates Anderson
of Virginia,

"Nam" in administrando remediis memora semper tenet apostolus, non
nominis morbi solum, verque sane generalis quae natura, rationem
ipsa habendam, sed multas vel minutissimas sapie res ipse respiciendos,
tum quae ad morbi originem et causas, et indiciorum variationem
et conjunctionem, tum quae ad aegri statum, et vires, et peculiarem
portasse corporis constitutionem, allinent. *Gregor. Conspic. Med. Thwait.*

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Philadelphia. April 1st 1811.

Ch. Gray

Vol.

Ch. Gray

of

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Thomas Bates & Son

As I conceive it to be of more importance, to correct
the errors, and to arrange, in order and regularity,
the various Facts, which are already known
in medicine; than to be labouring, and building
theory on Theories: I shall in as plain and
perspicuous a manner as I am able, make a few
observations, on Jaundice, together with its History,
Symptoms, and method of cure.

This as well as many other diseases, has had
and still remains to have, its Specifics, in the
hands of Quacks, many have been undone,
who have discovered, that many patients, recover
who had taken, other medicines, or none at all,
in as short a space of time as those, who had
taken the much admired Infalible.

But as long as Credulity is so prominent
in the human mind, especially of those who
are tormented by disease; and as long as there
are men who at the risk of the lives of those
unfortunate beings, will hold out Prestorations
and Grand Elixirs of Health. So long will
the progress, of the science of medicine be
retarded, and thousands fall victims to their
ignorance

Ignorance and Credulity.

2

I will not pretend to say that quacks and doctors have "never done any good," for I believe there have been cases, in which the regular medical practice has used all the remedies, which Reason, experience or the test of theories, may have taught him to prescribe; yet all have availed nothing, and by the assistance of a quack's medicine the patient has been restored to health in a short time. But still these cases have been few, when compared to the number in which either no good or death has been the consequence.

In many of those cases in which the patient has recovered, we cannot say correctly, to what credit they are entitled; who knows, but a favourable Crisis had taken place, or that the patient would have recovered, had nothing been administered.

Certain it is that, he who prescribes the ^{same} medicine, whatever be the disease, or rather, whatever be the state of the System, must, in many instances err, and in none often, than in the one I am about to treat of.

These are facts which appear to be well

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well known to every one, yet how few seem to be
the exertions made to overthrow this growing evil,
true it is that delicacy is to be admired, in all,
but when we see the injuries which every day, accrue
from too much delicacy on this subject, why will
not the lovers of the health and lives of mankind
unite in one common cause, the Abolishment of Empiricism

"To get rid of poisonous incense we should endeavor
to destroy their seeds" To get rid of this we should
strike at its foundations, and since our Country
is yet in its infancy, may we not hope, that she
may be freed from the evil. But I am sorry to
say, that this evil, has kept a pace with her increase.
"It grows with her growth and strengthens with her
strength"

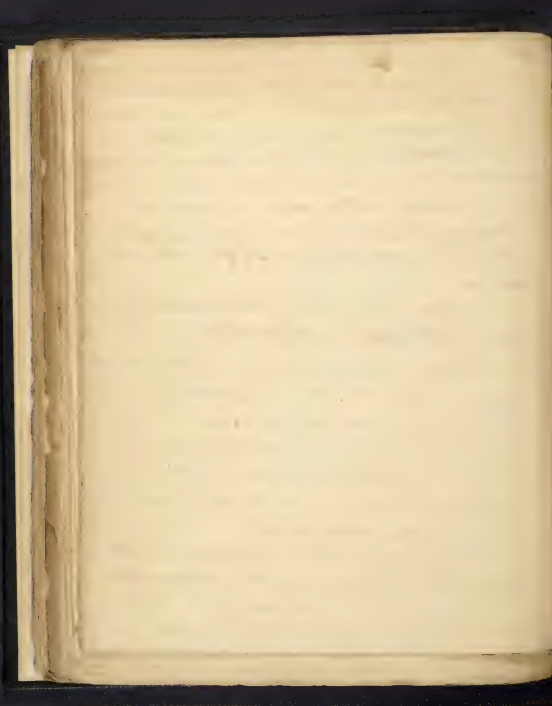
Simplicity in medicine is to be admired as
well as in religion. It may be said by some that
the more mysterious we be in our actions and
prescriptions, the better, by this means we have
one of the greatest assistants, the Confidence or
rather the Faith, of our patients. I know the
power of the mind over the body, which should
never be lost sight of, by a Physician, and
that

that it is owing to this in great measure, that quacks
have such success. But I will ask, Would it not
be better, for our patients to have full confidence
in our prescriptions, brought out by Reason than
by vain pretensions, certainly it appears to be more
convenient to Patients and Physicians like, And instead
of being thought to have communications with
as some of the ignorant have supposed, Let them
rather think, we obtained relief from him who
saves us.

I shall now attend to the Subject of my
essay. *Icterus*. or *Jaundice*.

It is defined to be a yellowness of the Skin, an
obscure of the eyes, the face of a white clay colour,
the urine obscurely red, tinged Linen of a yellow
colour. These symptoms are the most prominent
but when it arises from gallstones, as shall hereafter
be mentioned, pain about the pit of the Stomach,
nausea, vomiting, Costiveness &c.

Jaundice arises from a stoppage of the Ductus
Cholædochus which prevents the excretion of Bile
or 2. from too great a secretion of it. In either
case it is taken into the general System, in the



1st instance, it has been supposed by regurgitation
 and in the second by absorption, In med^l cases, I am
 of opinion that it is taken in by absorption, although
 I do not deny that it is ^{taken in by} ~~ever~~ taken in by regurgitation,
 it certainly is, when Jaundice is induced by
 too great a secretion.

Obstructions of the Ducts are caused either by
 1st Inflammation, 2nd Gall Stones, 3rd Spasms, or
 4th Compression.

1st Jaundice sometimes occurs in Hepatitis, in
 which case inflammation extends across the gall duct
 and causes a suppuration, perhaps by a thickening of
 the coats of the duct, whether coagulating Lymph
 is ever thrown into the duct in such manner as
 to cause occlusion I cannot say but think it possible.

2nd Gall Stones (or as Dr. Kecke thinks more
 properly Biliary Concretions) are lodged either in the
 Gall Bladder or the Ducts. And when they are
 the cause of Jaundice, the pains are, acute,
 Laminating about the Liver, and often in the
 right shoulder, the patient often complains of
 a pain at the pit of the Stomach. The patient
 being easy for a short time, and the pains again
 returning.

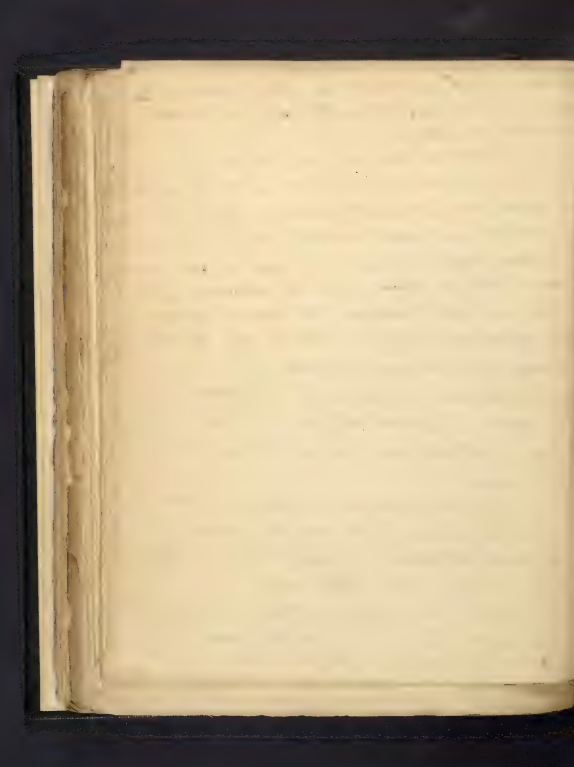
+ an itching of the skin after attacks.

returning with great Violence, The Stomach being
often so much affected in these fits that Nausea &
Vomiting are induced.

During the time that the Calculus is passing
from the Gall bladder through the duct the pain
is much more excruciating. Colic of the Feet
and Back, a cold sweat sometimes attends, whenever
the Stone may lodge then the pain is felt most
severe, This is generally about the entrance of the
Duct into the Duodenum, the pain is circumscribed,
The patient can scarcely be still in any position,
leaning forwards seems generally to give most relief,
during this time the Bowels are constipated, When
the faeces are evacuated they are of a light clay colour
owing to the Bile being prevented from entering the
duodenum.

By Regurgitation, or as I believe Absorption,
almost the whole body becomes of a yellow colour,
the Skin, the Whites of the eyes, The Urine tinges
white Substances of a yellow colour

after the violent symptoms above enumerated
have existed some time, they entirely cease, either
from the passage of the Gall Stone into the



Two tumours, or as has been supposed sometimes to
happen, getting back into the Gall bladder.

The patient now relieved, supposes himself quite
well, but to his great disappointment, in the course
of a week, more or less, he is again attacked with
the same violent symptoms. Coming on with a
sense of lassitude, loss of appetite, flatulency, together
with acid eructations, costiveness, and after a while
opacities of the Eyes and skin, high coloured urine,
a bitter taste, Nausea & Vomiting, obtuse pain in
the right Hypochondrium &c, more or less attended
Stool is sometimes brought on.

3.th Spasms, the symptoms from spasms
are nearly the same as those above enumerated
at any rate it is almost impossible to discriminate
for these reasons, I shall treat of the method of
cure under the same head.

4.th Compression, under this head comes
Tumors, enlargement of the Liver, Pancreas &c. &c.
&c. To which may be added Pregnancy, these by
pressure on the Duodenum & Bile ducts, prevent
the ^{free} passage of the Bile into the Duodenum.
We may generally know where it originates
from

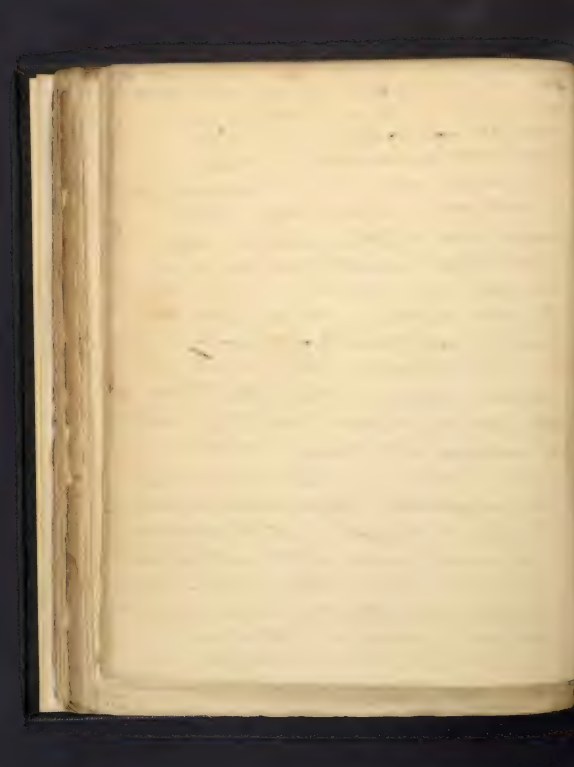
from the above mentioned causes, either by previous diseases existing in some one of those vessels, or by feeling one may readily discover, if there be a preternatural enlargement of any of them.

From the enlargement and consequent rising up of the uterus in pregnancy, pressure is sometimes made on those parts, and I imagine the consequences, especially if the female has never before been pregnant or borne a child. This occurs sometimes in the first, but often during the latter months of pregnancy.

5.th The Jaundice which attacks very young children, treated of by authors under the name of *Icterus infratum* or Yellow Gum. This is caused by a stoppage of the Biliary duct either by retained Meconium, or viscid matter of some kind, and, forlornly, less frequently, by imperforation of the duct at its junction with the duodenum.

It generally comes on with great lassitude or incoherence, a yellow skin, and bilious urine, Sleepings, which often proves fatal, unless the obstruction be removed in a short time.

A kind of Jaundice, sometimes arises



from Wounds & fractures of the Cranium also
from the bites of some poisonous animals, there are
some other causes, but they are rare, and I shall
pass by them, with only observing, that we think
in those cases only regard it as a symptom,
the cause being removed, the disorder disappears.

Having described as accurately as I am
able the Causes and Symptoms of Jaundice,
I shall after making a few observations, go on
to treat of the method of cure adapted to each.

Of the causes and formation of Gall Stones
Few people are affected with Jaundice who have
lived temperately and taken sufficient exercise
unless in very warm climates, where disorders of
the Liver appear to be almost inevitable; and
even there those who live temperately and pay
strict attention to exercise, are less frequently
and more slightly affected, with those disorders.

Man was made to be active and temperate
if he neglects exercise, and indulges in Intemperance,
Disease is kindly sent to give him timely warning.
Is not this a blessing in disguise?

In warm climates the Liver is often so much
disordered

disordered, as to be almost insensible to Stimuli especially, such a one as the Bile, the functions are so much impeded by its Torpor, that the bile is with difficulty carried to the duodenum. In cases of this kind I believe with Dr Darwin, that the absorbents act, which take away the more fluid parts, the morbid by long stagnations forming Gall stones, or as Dr Leake thinks, more properly called, Biliary concretions. For says he there is no nucleus.

If this Theory be correct, which carries great probability with it, we may easily account for the formation of Biliary concretions, in Hard drinkers, in the Sordid and those who labour under great distress of mind.

As the immoderate use of ardent Spirits has become so common of late in all parts of the United States, I might spend a few moments, in considering its effects on the body and mind, had not the subject been so ably handled already, by one* who deserves well of his Country and mankind.

I shall therefore only touch upon it as respects my present subject, from which I am afraid I

* Rush's med. essays and observations.

* The manuscript of this is in the library of the
University of Cambridge

strong, too far already;

Ardent Spirits increases the vital actions* and for a while expels care from the mind, and the more we are accustomed to take the greater the necessity. according to one of the laws of Sensation, "Impressions require to be increased after habit has rendered them insensible in order for Sensation to be produced."

This being carried to such an extent, as to exhaust the excitability not only of the Liver, but of the whole system. Now the secretion ^{and excretion} of Bile which for a long time had been kept up more by the Stimulus of ardent Spirits, than the natural Stimulus of Bile. Stops, and this is much the sooner, if the use of ardent Spirits is absolutely Stop.

The absorbents act in the same manner as above mentioned and Bilious evacuations are formed Jaundice with all its symptoms follows, and from such causes as this, Death often ends the scene. I do not by this, wish to be understood that Jaundice is always the consequence, of the immoderate use of Spirits, but that it very often is, must be well known to every one.

I deem it useless to say any thing of
sh

* Dr. Dureau says he has seen 6 cases of *Quercus* from
gout attacking the liver.

I wish that I could state certainly that *calculus*
is formed in the liver from Gout. J.B.A. --

formation of Bilious concretions in the Sedentary and distemp' of mind. by this time it must be very evident to every one.

Lastly, The Gout, this disease is not confined to any one part of the body, it thro' lightning from one part of the body to another, and "Delicately as certainly visits it as a malice robs uses lightning," the Liver is often affected by this disease, causing all the disorders to which this viscus is liable, Inflammation, and I have not the least doubt, but Spleen and Gall Stones, in the same manner as in the kidneys and from the same other of these causes Jaundice is the consequence, There is Nephritis Arthritica, Gonorrhoea Arthritica, why not Hepatitis Arthritica.

(Of the cure,

However desperate the case may appear, when cold, we should endeavour to remove the distemp', and I shall now treat of the cure of Jaundice from its different causes above enumerated; and

1.st When Jaundice arises from inflammation extending from the liver to the duct, as sometimes happens in Hepatitis, the remedies for that disease are to be used; The inflammation, being
subdu'd

subject; the disorder is removed, I will here
remark that obstructions are most commonly the
effect of inflammation, but in hot climates,
disorder of the Liver often precedes inflammation.

2^d From Gallstones or Biliary Concretion
the first thing we should endeavour to do, is,
to coel the gall stones which produce these
violent symptoms. The impossibility of dissolving
them is well known. Therefore our remedies
should be such as relieve pain and produce
a relaxation of the parts, in order that they
may suffer the Biliary Concretion to enter
the Duodenum and be convey'd out of the body
with the feces.

These are

1st Bloodletting. If the patient be
plethoric and inflammatory symptoms attend,
this may be used to considerable extent. It often
relieves excruciating pain and relaxes the system
in a remarkable degree, cramps limbs which
could not be reduced by any other means,
have often yielded to the strength of one person
after copious bleeding, merely ad. Deliquium animi



In some instances the patient is so much debilitated that we should be cautious how we use it, nevertheless I hold it to be one of our best remedies, we can regulate it according to the state of our patient, we may at the same time administer whatever medicines we may think proper.

2nd The Warm Bath. This is also a remedy of the greatest importance, It relaxes the whole system and in patients much debilitated, should never be neglected. Patients may be kept in it until great sickness almost to fainting, has been induced. Partials applications of this remedy may also be used with great advantage, such as bladders of warm water applied over the parts affected, warm fomentations, After the application of these, Emollient Glysters, Opium in a solid form, to prevent its being thrown up by vomiting.

3rd Purgative medicines, such as Antimonials in small doses, frequently repeated. Doses Purdus have been used with advantage.

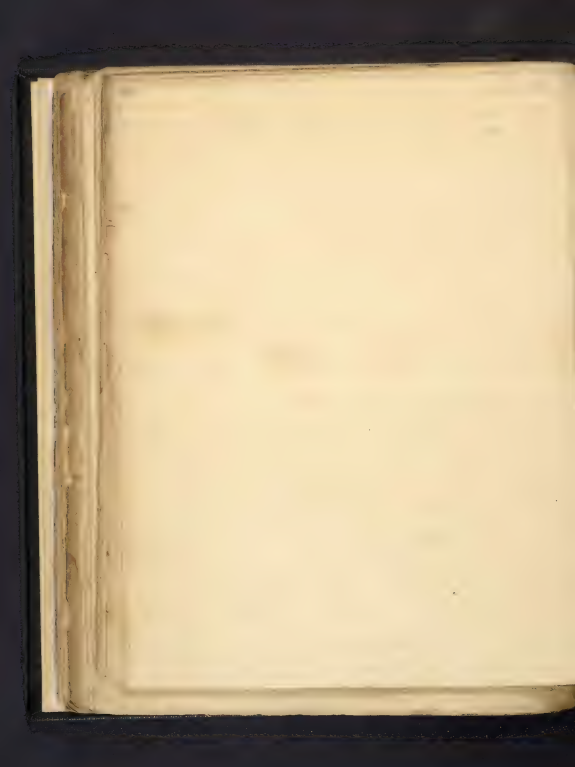
4th Emetics. These have long been employed, with the intention of expelling Gall stones from the Biliary Ducts, and ^{the} producing

produces a discharge of bile into the Duodenum, But when the pain is great, and inflammation runs high, they should never be given with the intention of inducing vomiting, For they would be apt to increase those symptoms.

Should none of those Symptoms attend, they should be tried in almost every case. They act as a nauseating medicine and at the same time mechanically. For in the act of vomiting, pressure is made on the gall Bladder, - by the Liver, Intestines, and abdominal muscles, By which pressure gall stones, are often expelled from that Viscus, and likewise from the ducts.

5. thPurgatives, after we have tried the use of the above mentioned remedies, and often before, these should certainly have a trial For we well know that purgative medicines excite the action of the intestines and adjacent parts, during their operation a greater quantity of bile is thrown into the Duodenum,

It has been said that if Jaundice arises from a chronic affection of the Liver, then no harm by bringing on still greater Debility



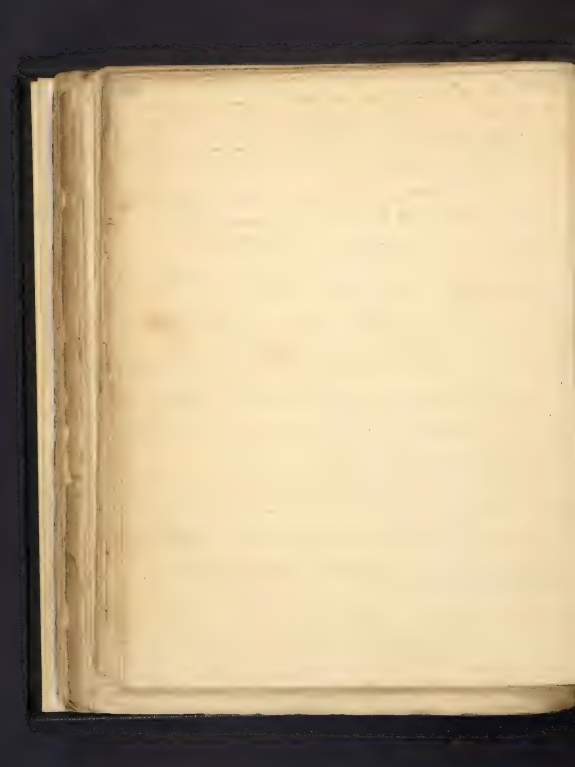
I think that we may in most cases, venture
to try them, if they should do no good and
debilitate the patient, we can at once discover
it and omit them,

It is also said by some that they are
useful when the bowels are constipated, and
should never be used in any other case,

Very well for those practitioners that it should
be generally in that state. But if Purgatives
not as above mentioned, they certainly would be
of service were the bowels not much constipated.
A Diarrhoea has sometimes been known to
carry off the disorder. What would be the effect
of an artificial Diarrhoea, in some cases when
the debility is not great?

When we trust the cure to purgatives
they should be drastic and combined with
Calomel; Neutral salts, Soap & Opium are
very highly recommended in this disorder.
I think much of Turpentine, of late has been much
recommended in Europe.

6th Riding on Horse back, and other
modes of exercise, is never to be neglected when
it

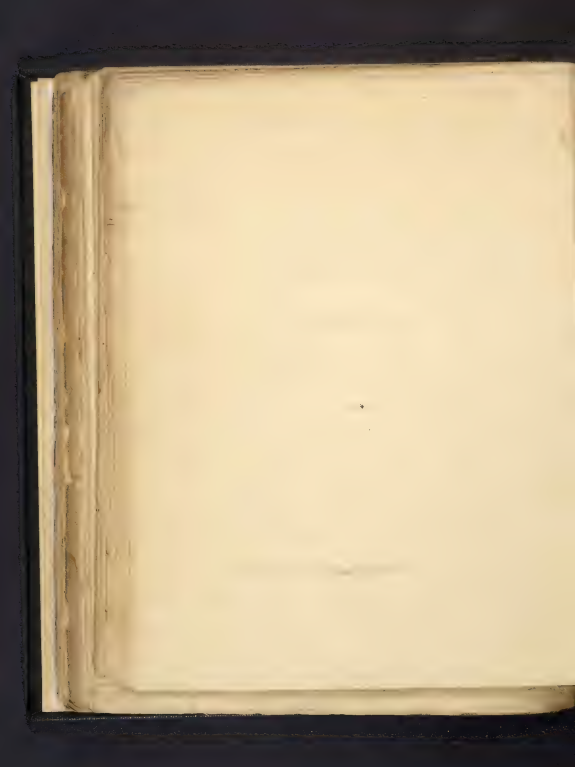


the patient is able. By regulation it assists, in
the first circulation through the Liver; (see note)
the formation of bilious concretions in the Gall bladder.
By this rest of unexcited the patients mind is saved
in some measure from the throes of his situation
by the various objects which every moment present
themselves, at any rate, if it does not afford
amusement it counteracts (what is ever to be
dreaded) despair.

7.th Mercurial Salivation.

This is never to be resorted to when great
inflammation attends, but in Chronic Inflammation
attended with obstructions of the Liver &c. when
the patient is not in a very excitable state
and especially if any of the other Viscera be
at the same time affected, the Golden Panner
or Mercurelle stands 4. This certainly is an
indispensable remedy. Mercury is a water
Persoon is an universal Stimulus, every
fibre in the body is pervious to its penetrating
effects. The Skin, all the Viscera, and even the
Bones.

Some have gone so far, as to say
(H.)

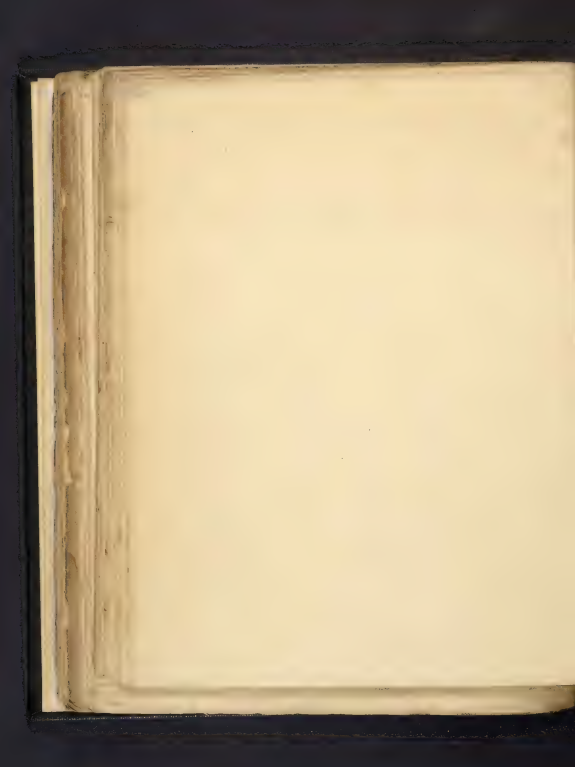


that Mercury has a specific action on the Liver
Mercury having cleared away obstructions, all
the organs will perform with ease, their natural
functions.

Numerous are the remedies which are
recommended in this disorder. Dr. Rush recommends
from his own experience, Taraxicum or Dandelion,
this is a mucilaginous bitter and diuretic.

Dr. Leake recommends this as well as other
Saponaceous vegetables, as he calls them.

In Chronic cases attended with
Anasarca, Diuretics, as, Urine, Saline purges
It have been supposed to be the best medicines.
Bitters. Alther, Bark, Riding on horseback,
have been all recommended in particular
states of the system. Cicuta, Chalybeate
waters; Other mixed with Yolk of egg or honey,
and Electricity have been recommended by
Dr Darwin, the latter of which the Doctor
has used with success in many instances
the shock being passed along the course
of the Bile duct. This I propose with



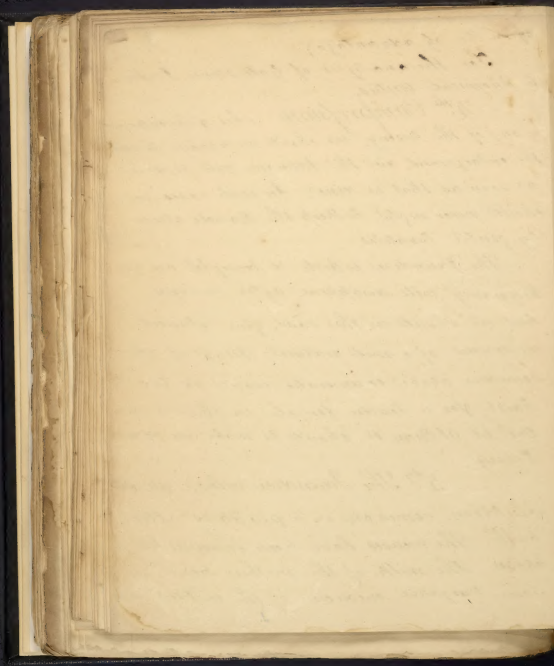
often be of advantage;

For the analysis of Gall stones, I refer to Chemical writings.

4.th Compression, when from enlargement of any of the viscus, we should endeavour to undo the enlargement, and the Jaundice will be removed as soon as that is done. In such cases, we should never neglect to keep the Bowels open by gentle laxatives.

The Jaundice which is brought on by Pregnancy, will disappear after delivery; but we should in this case, give aperient medicines, of a mild nature. Most of the remedies above enumerated, would be too harsh for a tender female in this situation. Doct. Wit. Ol. Ricin. It should be made use of, with Delicacy.

5.th The Jaundice which attacks Children, comes on in a few days after birth. The causes have been enumerated above. The milk of the mother's breast, or some purgative medicine of the mildest kind



20.

should be used. Emetics of Antimonial
wine &c. are often used with the greatest advantage.

Should there be an imp perforation into
the Duodenum, Death must be the inevitable
consequence.

Those persons who are subject to
Jaundice, should live chiefly on vegetable
food. Milk & Ripe fruits which will not
produce flatulency. Exercise should never
be neglected. but Distill'd & fermented liquors
should carefully be avoided.

In the administration of the above
mentioned remedies, regard should always
be paid to the age, Constitution & Strength
of the patient. *Memoria semper lenae oportet,
non nominis morbi solum, neque sane generalis
ejus natura, rationem esse habendam, sed
multas vel minutissimas saepe res esse respiciendas,
tum quae ad morbi originem et causas, et
indiciorum varietatem et conjunctionem,
tum quae ad acri statum et vires, et peculiarem
fortasse corporis constitutionem, attinent.*

